

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

May 15, 2001

7:30 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Clancy

3. Presentation to be made to the Special Olympics and the March of Dimes.

Mayor Baines stated I'd like to welcome all of you to our meeting this evening and before we begin the formal meeting I'd like to make a special presentation tonight. We have some special guests with us this evening from both the March of Dimes and Special Olympics International. This past March we had a very successful community event with the Mayor's Blarney Breakfast and the effort was to raise money for two very important institutions, if you will, in our community that are helping families and children and because of the generosity of the business community, we raised over \$20,000 for both charities and it was a fun event, but more important than that we're able to bring some much needed money to both of these wonderful charities. So, tonight it is an honor for me to present this plaque to a good friend of the City of Manchester, in fact, she's been a friend of mine since I became Principal of West High School in 1980 and Keith will appreciate this...she and her husband Cliff were the Booster Club and their sons were very involved in athletics and they've been great friends ever since and Mary McGuinness helped me organize...whenever there is an important event to organize I either turn to my sister Shirley or Mary McGuinness and Mary organized this wonderful event and I'd like to present this to you this evening, Mary, and thank you for a wonderful job and because of your efforts to two wonderful charities in our community are receiving these very generous donations. So, Mary, could you come forward to accept this on behalf of all of us.

Ms. McGuinness stated thank you for very much for your generous applause and that you, Mayor Bob, for giving me the opportunity to chair such a wonderful event. It was a lot of work, but it was more fun and we did raise lots of dollars and one of the reasons why we're here tonight is to say thank you to the business community, invite them to join us again next March and also I would like to present some checks to our charities. So, if

our representatives from the Special Olympics and the March of Dimes would come forward we'll do that at this time.

Coming up is one of our Special Olympic athletes Chris Paneras and the Chairman of the Special Olympics, Ken Fiscarello and I would like to say thank you for your help in making this event a success and I'd like to present Chris with a check in the amount of \$10,489.00.

Mr. Paneras stated thank you for having me here.

Mr. Fiscarello stated I just want to take a second to thank you, Mr. Mayor, on behalf of the Special Olympics...you've become a wonderful friend to our organization during the time you've been in office and I want to thank both you and Mary for spearheading this event. For a small organization like ours this makes a world of difference to our programs and can't thank you enough on behalf of our organization. Thank you, both.

Ms. McGuinness stated it's a pleasure, Ken. Here on behalf of the March of Dimes is Kathy Malone from the Shop 'N Save grocery chain who's been a big supporter of this event and I'd like to present Kathy, on behalf of the March of Dimes a check for \$10,489.00.

Ms. Malone stated thank you for hosting this event. It was wonderful, you did a tremendous job and I just want the people here to realize when you look at March of Dimes it's a healthy baby program; that program is run by about six people in the State of New Hampshire, they do all of the work. So, we really depend on volunteers like Mary, like the Mayor to fund our program with events such as these. So, thank you for your support.

Mayor Baines stated Chris competes in swimming and he won three medals, right Chris, a job well-done. So, again, thank you for those presentation.

4. Presentation to be made by the Manchester School District Auditor.

Mayor Baines stated next on the agenda was to be a presentation by the Manchester District audit...we decided that this evening we will not be hearing that audit because we do not have the Management Letter and we do not feel it's proper for us to deal with the audit without the Management Letter and the Board will also be requesting us to reschedule the meeting with the School District some other night other than tomorrow night, so I'd ask the School District to try to get the Management Letter to us no later than the end of this week, so we can reschedule the meeting with the School District as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baines advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Minutes Accepted

- A. Copies of minutes of meetings held on October 17, 2000 (two meetings); November 20, 2000; November 21, 2000 (two meetings); November 27, 2000; and November 28, 2000 (cont. of 11/21/00 BMA); December 18, 2000; and December 19, 2000 (two meetings).

Ratify and Confirm Poll Conducted

- B. Approving a request by the Manchester North Little League to hold a parade on Saturday, May 5th between the hours of 8:30 - 9:30 AM.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

- C. WorldCom/NE Fibers Systems license for underground conduit and seven manholes on Spring, Bedford, No. Bedford, Kidder, Dow, and Elm Streets and No. Hampshire Lane.

Informational - to be Received and Filed

- E. Communication from Guy Beloin, Finance Analyst II, submitting the City's Quarterly Financial (unaudited) Statements for the nine months ended March 31, 2001.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- G. Resolutions:

"Amending the 1992, 1996, 1999, and 2001 Community Improvement Program, transferring, and authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the 2001 CIP 420301 - Hazardous Materials Disposal Project."

"Amending the 2000 & 2001 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the 2001 CIP 710401 Downtown Area Maintenance Projects."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) for the 2000 CIP 410900 - Gang Interdiction Program."

"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars and Seventy Nine Cents (\$29,880.79) for the 2001 CIP 411001 - Weed & Seed Coordinators."

"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$299,354) for the 2001 CIP 411101 - Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies & EPO Program."

"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Three Dollars (\$307,243) for the 2001 CIP 411201 - COPS MORE."

"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$3,945.60) for the 2001 CIP 411301 - NH CLIQUE Campaign Patrols."

"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the 2001 CIP 411401 - Underage Drinking Enforcement Initiative Program."

"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the 2001 CIP 710201 LED Replacement Program."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- H.** Advising that it has accepted monthly financial statements through period ending April 30, 2001 from the Finance Department, as enclosed herein, and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- I.** Advising that it has accepted the Board of Assessors Report, as enclosed herein, and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- J.** Advising that it has accepted the following:
 - a) department legend;
 - b) open invoice report over 90 days by fund;
 - c) open invoice report (all invoices for interdepartmental billings only);
 - d) open invoice report (all invoices due from the School District only).from the Finance Department, as enclosed herein, and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- K.** Advising that it has accepted the Building Improvement Program - Matching Funds Audit Report for fiscal years ended June 30, 1997 through June 30, 2000 from the Internal Audit Manager, as enclosed herein, and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- L.** Advising that it has reviewed and approved the proposed ordinance changes to fees for food establishments and other Health Department inspection services, and recommends same be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

M. Recommending that requests to accept and expend funds for various projects be approved as follows:

- 1) Revision #1 for FY00 410900, Gang Interdiction to extend project to March 31, 2002 and to accept and expend additional funds in the amount of \$75,000;
- 2) transferring \$15,000 from FY00 712000, Downtown Parking Improvements to FY01 710401, Downtown Area Maintenance, and closing out project 712000.
- 3) accept and expend funds in the amount of \$29,880.79 for FY01 411001, Weed & Seed Coordinators;
- 4) accept and expend funds in the amount of \$299,354.00 for FY01 411101, Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies & EPO Program;
- 5) accept and expend funds in the amount of \$512,071.00 for FY01 411201, COPS MORE 2001;
- 6) accept and expend funds in the amount of \$3,945.60 for FY01 411301, NH CLIQUE Campaign Patrols;
- 7) Revision #1 for FY01 710401, Downtown Area Maintenance adding a construction line item of \$15,000 from project 712000; and
- 8) accept and expend funds in the amount of \$2,000 for FY01 420301, Hazardous Materials Disposal Project (funds transferred from balances of several completed CIP projects);
- 9) accept and expend funds in the amount of \$5,000 for FY01 411401, Underage Drinking Enforcement Initiative; and
- 10) Revision #1 for FY01 710201, LED Replacement Program increasing the budget by \$10,000 (PSNH reimbursement)

and for such purpose amending resolutions and budget authorizations have been submitted.

N. Recommending that the Chief of Police be granted authorization to accept a State Police surveillance vehicle to add to their fleet at a cost of \$1,600 (grant funds to be used).

O. Advising that the Director of Planning has been authorized to expend \$70,851 in Central Business District Revitalization funds to replace the Veterans Park Staging.

P. Advising that it has approved the "Walnut Street Drain" project to correct a flooding problem in the Livingston Park/Walnut Street/Clarke Street area.

Q. Advising that it has approved ordinance amendment:

"Amending Chapter 52. Sewers of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

R. Advising that a request from the Deputy Public Works Director to consider a 1988 Chevrolet Celebrity pool vehicle as surplus and send it to the State auction and to allow them to replace the vehicle with the next available surplus police vehicle was granted and approved.

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

S. Advising that it has approved a request from Terry Casey of Standing Room Only, LLC to operate a vending cart at City Hall Plaza on Elm Street.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- T.** Recommending that a request from the Manchester Veteran's Council to close Elm Street, from Webster Street to Veteran's Park on Monday, May 28, 2001 from 2PM until 4PM for the annual Memorial Day Parade be granted and approved under the direct supervision of the City Clerk, Fire, Highway, Police, Traffic and Risk.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIC CENTER

- U.** Advising that it has approved the following change order:
Change Order #27 for \$65,526.00;
Change Order #28 for \$749,964.00; and
Change Order #29 for \$604,881.00
which were filed with the Committee on April 25, 2001.

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN WIHBY, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SHEA, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

- D.** Sidewalk Petitions - 50/50 Program (FY2002)

Alderman Pariseau stated in that package of sidewalk reconstruction I'd like to pull out the item dealing with 109 Rosedale Avenue. The applicant requested the City to install a granite curbing which was already in place and he removed the curbing to create illegal parking and it was brought before the encodement officer and let the applicant take care of the reinstallation of the curbing.

Alderman Pariseau moved to remove that sidewalk petition of 109 Rosedale Avenue. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the balance of the sidewalk petitions under supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to the availability of funding.. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- F.** Copies of communications from AT&T Broadband submitting the franchise fee for the 1st quarter of 2001 and advising of upcoming price changes effective June 1, 2001.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated this is a notification of proposed cable rate increases by AT&T. I do notice that the average rate seems to be going up \$6.00 which is 20%. As outrageous as some people thought the MediaOne increases were this is really

astounding. Of course, there is nothing that the City can do about it except to note it and also I guess to be thankful to the extent that our 5% will be going up by 20%, so I assume if we had projected...what had we projected for the revenues from this. We should add 20% to that projection because the rates are going up 20%, so we'll be getting, I think, an extra \$200,000 because of this, no, or is it already in there. But, if the rates go up 20% we'll get 5% of that. So, if the rates go up 20%, we'll be getting 20%. I think it's about \$200,000.

Alderman Lopez stated the City Clerk did report the additional \$200,000 when he presented his budget.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated it's in there.

Mayor Baines stated it is a very significant increase and I'm sure the citizens of Manchester will not be pleased.

Alderman Cashin moved (and I know we can't do anything, but) to send them a letter stating our disappointment in the way they're handling these. It just isn't right. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines stated and I will also forward up with a letter from my office, but I think it would also be a good idea to get a letter from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

6. Mayor Baines made the following nominations:

Personnel Board of Appeals

William Varkas to succeed himself, term to expire March, 2004.

Pauline Guay to succeed herself, term to expire March, 2004.

Alderman Cashin moved to suspend the rules and confirm the nominations to the Personnel Board of Appeals as presented. Alderman Wihby duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Shea moved to confirm the nominations to the Personnel Board of Appeals as presented. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Personnel Board of Appeals

Karen Rumfelt to succeed Harriet Blanc, term to expire March, 2004.

Per rules of the Board this nomination will layover until the next meeting.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Chester Raymond to succeed William Trombly, term to expire March 1, 2004.

Per rules of the Board this nomination will layover until the next meeting.

Alderman Wihby stated I thought Mark Hobson went to Devine, Millimet is he no longer there.

Mayor Baines stated he is the Director of Administration. Ms. Rumfelt is Human Resources.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Appropriating Resolution:
"Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2002, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."
as amended, ought to pass and layover.

Alderman Shea moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Finance. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A second report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Resolutions:

"Amending the 1992, 1996, 1999, and 2001 Community Improvement Program, transferring, and authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the 2001 CIP 420301 - Hazardous Materials Disposal Project."

"Amending the 2000 & 2001 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the 2001 CIP 710401 Downtown Area Maintenance Projects."

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"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars and Seventy Nine Cents (\$29,880.79) for the 2001 CIP 411001 - Weed & Seed Coordinators."

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"Amending the 2001 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the 2001 CIP 710201 LED Replacement Program."

pass and be Enrolled.

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept the second report of the Committee on Finance.

Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just asked Bob this is it on the CIP budget, I believe. Is everybody in agreement and if it is I just want to thank the staff especially the City Clerk's Office and the CIP staff for all of their hard work and all of the individual departments for all their input. The process went pretty smooth and I want to thank my colleagues for their cooperation, so thank you and I would be remiss, your Honor, if I didn't thank you for giving us a good piece of information to start with.

Mayor Baines stated I would pass a compliment over to my Finance Assistant, Wayne Robinson who worked very hard with Planning staff as well. As you know it's a very comprehensive process and work that has gone into that.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that the CIP Resolution is going to take one more vote at the next meeting, so you're not quite finished, it will appear one more time.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the next report of the Committee on Finance is as a result of last night's Finance Committee meeting.

A third report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that the Health Department be authorized to expend \$50,000 through budget transfers within the Health Department's current fiscal year 2001 for a special project, West Nile Virus control.

Alderman Pariseau moved to accept the third report of the Committee on Finance.

Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

10. A report of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems was presented recommending that a request from the Manchester Boys & Girls Club for business license fee waiver for Dobles Chevrolet Annual Corvette Car Show to be held June 10, 2001 be denied as fees cannot be waived under the ordinance; and further recommends that \$200 be taken out of civic contributions and given to the Manchester Boys & Girls Club to cover the business license fee.

Alderman Levasseur moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Administration. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A second report of the Committee on Administration was presented advising that it has approved a request from Jennifer Mercier to sell food in front of The Black Brimmer Restaurant between the hours of 9 PM and 2 AM.

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept, receive and adopt the second report of the Committee on Administration. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Levasseur commented I see some faces and wondering what that is. There is an ordinance in effect Downtown that if you want to serve food you just need permission of the person whose building you're going to put it in front of. So, that is the reason why this is going forward.

Alderman Shea asked this is consistent with what we adopted...2:00 AM is pretty late for someone to be having a hot dog or a hamburger, I guess if they're appetite is up to snuff.

A third report of the Committee on Administration was presented recommending that a request for a circus license from the Royal Palace Circus for a circus to be held at JFK Coliseum on Friday, June 8, 2001 be granted and approved.

Alderman Pariseau moved to accept, receive and adopt the third report of the Committee on Administration. Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

11. A report of the Committee on Lands & Building was presented recommending that a request of the Raphael Club to acquire a parcel of city owned land at the corner of Second and Granite Streets be approved. The Committee advises that said property is surplus to city needs, but should be disposed of in coordination with adjacent property owned by the State of New Hampshire. The Committee notes that the Tax Collector has indicated no interest in the property. The Committee recommends that the property be sold to the Raphael Club for a value to be determined by the Board of Assessors, and subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to prepare such documents as may be required to consummate the transfer of said property. The Committee recommends that the Mayor be authorized to execute any and all documents required for said transaction subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

Alderman Pariseau moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

12. A report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety was presented recommending that a request from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Manchester, for the closure of Concord Street, from Pine Street to Chestnut Street, from 6 AM until 2 PM on June 9, 2001 (rain date of Sunday, June 10, 2001) to hold a Yard Sale be granted and approved under the direct supervision of Police, Fire, Traffic, Risk, Highway, Building and City Clerk.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety. Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

13. Communication from Attorney Richmond notifying the City of the Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter's intent to renew its Service and Lease Agreements with the City commencing July 1, 2001 and ending June 30, 2002.

Alderman Levasseur moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute both the Service and Lease Agreements, as outlined herein, subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

14. Resolutions:

"Amending the 1992, 1996, 1999, and 2001 Community Improvement Program, transferring, and authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the 2001 CIP 420301 - Hazardous Materials Disposal Project."

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Alderman Wihby moved that the Resolutions be read by titles only. Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Wihby moved to dispense with readings by titles only. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Pinard moved that the Resolutions pass and be Enrolled. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS

15. Communication from Alderman Vaillancourt regarding HB429 relative to binding arbitration for city disputes (includes original communication, memo regarding Dover, memo regarding Portsmouth, and also a communication from the Chief Negotiator in opposition to HB429.)
(Tabled April 17, 2001)

This item remained tabled.

16. Report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue

Administration:

Advising that it has accepted a School audited financial statements report from the Finance Department, as enclosed herein, and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.

(Tabled May 1, 2001)

This item remained tabled.

17. NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Wihby stated as you know there is a letter from Temple Israel to Alderman Levasseur and I think he's called a few of the Aldermen today. What's going to happen, I think, is we can't do anything...I talked to the City Clerk about it. We can't do anything until and if the Charter is changed. So, he is going to be submitting a second letter asking that we have a public hearing and go through the process of changing the Charter, at that point.

Alderman Shea stated I think Carol mentioned that these people don't have to vote that day, they can vote by absentee ballot, so there isn't any problem that way.

Mayor Baines asked, Carol, would you like to advise the Board.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the question that has arisen is that it is a Jewish Holiday the date of the Primary. Under State law people are entitled to request an absentee ballot for religious purposes which this would qualify for. I know that is not necessarily the appropriate answer to some of the Jewish community and they would look for a Charter change and certainly if someone submits that we will walk that through the process, however, it would not change the Primary this year and it's not that every single primary, I don't believe, is going to fall on that. The Charter requires the third Tuesday of September which is the way it reads. We can't change the date because the Charter actually sets the date out for us, but certainly there may be a provision or a way to change the Charter in the future and that would require the public hearing process and so forth.

Alderman Wihby stated he understands that, your Honor. He will still submit it so that if it ever happens in the future...

Mayor Baines stated I will be talking with him tomorrow, I know I have been trying to reach him.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated certainly the Clerk's Office would assist in whatever way possible to get the absentee ballots to them.

Alderman Gatsas in reference to the Management Report from the School District asked are we getting a completed Management Report, are we getting a final draft or are we just getting a draft without a response from the School District.

Mayor Baines replied I am going to request...I believe I'm entitled, as public record, to the draft and I'll be doing that tomorrow...Kevin, could you just explain the process. I know we get a chance to respond to the draft, then it comes back and then it becomes final after they review what the management has submitted, is that correct.

Mr. Clougherty replied right. Usually, what happens after the auditors have done their work they list their work, they list out what they feel are management issues, they present them to management so that you can respond and make sure that they are factually accurate even if you disagree with them and that is what's submitted. Ordinarily when the Management Letter goes to the respective Board there should be a letter attached from management explaining their position on those things. So, I would expect that you would get the Management Letter and get management's response to those issues raised.

Alderman Gatsas asked can we make it emphatically clear that before we meet that we would like the response to the Management Letter, please, because I think that's important for us to understand where we're going with the audit.

Mayor Baines replied that's fine, we'll make that request.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated so the meeting for tomorrow night has been canceled and do we wish to schedule something else in its place, so we don't waste any of it. We are running down on time.

Mayor Baines asked do you know what we could reschedule.

Alderman Cashin stated my only problem is the time and how could you notify somebody to be here for tomorrow night, I just don't think it's fair.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we have posted a Finance Committee meeting for discussion on the budget and outlined the School District as being the purpose of that discussion. It could be taken up as a new business item according to the Solicitor.

Mayor Baines asked if you want us to try and do that and keep it on and if we can pull together some presentations we'll consult with the Chairman tomorrow morning.

Alderman Levasseur stated we're going to have to change the date for the School, so somebody is going to have to be moved up anyway.

Mayor Baines asked is that the will of the Board. How many members of the Board would like to continue tomorrow night.

Alderman Wihby stated my concern is that you're going to be able to move one or two tomorrow and we're still going to have to have a special day for the other one anyway.

Alderman Lopez stated they should all be ready to come, just tell them to be here.

Mayor Baines asked how many want to try to keep tomorrow night, just raise your hands so I have a sense of how many want to keep tomorrow night...seven, eight.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would prefer being here but is it fair to the departments.

Mayor Baines stated what we will do is meet tomorrow morning, we'll try to do it, if we can we'll continue.

Alderman Cashin stated the City Clerk will notify the departments and if there are some available to meet tomorrow night, if not, we won't meet.

Mayor Baines stated if there is only one, we won't do it. We'll consult with the Chairman of the Board and make a decision.

Alderman Lopez stated Alderman Gatsas brought up the Management Letter...wouldn't it be important for us to get a copy of the Management Letter...if we have to wait for a response that might go on until the end of the month. I think even though a response to the Management Letter ought to be there, I think while we're waiting for the response that we ought to get a copy of the Management Letter and the audit.

Mayor Baines stated we have the audit and I can make sure to get that out to all of you.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Board received copies of both the audit report and the Management Letter of the School District. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Wihby stated at the same time we're not going to meet with them until we have...

Mayor Baines interjected I understand that, I am very clear on that.

Alderman Levasseur asked what was the vote last night at the School Board meeting as to whether or not they are going to move out of the Ash Street School.

Mayor Baines replied they postponed any presentation, I think they are still in negotiations with some different properties...that was my understanding, so there wasn't a presentation last night.

Alderman Levasseur stated there is an intent on them to move.

Mayor Baines replied yes. The Board has made a decision that they do not want to put portable classrooms on the Central High School site; that the preference would be to use the Ash Street facility for classrooms to avoid doing that.

Alderman Wihby asked is it to avoid doing that or is it so they can have better quarters for themselves, your Honor.

Mayor Baines replied no, I appreciate your comments, but the Board does not want to put portable classrooms on that site.

Alderman Wihby stated if you do portables for one year and you start building tomorrow this Board would okay...if they were putting on an addition today, we'd be voting today to put on the addition and start the work tomorrow if they came forward with a plan and they'd have portables for one year and September of the following year they'd be done and then we wouldn't be tied into having a lease for five years or ten years at \$400,000 or whatever it's going to be.

Alderman Shea stated I concur. Is there money in the School budget for them to go off and rent something at the Center of NH or wherever.

Mayor Baines stated I don't think there's much interest in building additional classrooms onto Central High School. Their feeling is that that building is big enough, they don't want to increase the capacity at Central High School.

Alderman Shea stated the question is where is the money going to come from for them to go...

Mayor Baines stated they would have to absorb it within whatever budget.

Alderman Shea asked will they be coming back to us for additional money and if we decide not to give them any, what's going to happen.

Mayor Baines replied obviously, that is the process and they are going to present when they come to the Board that's their plan. Obviously, if they don't get the funding they're going to have to revisit their plans. This is the appropriate discussion for the

administration when they get here. I just explained to you that the Board does not want to put portable classrooms at Central High School and I concur with that.

Alderman Gatsas stated did I hear you to understand that we don't have an overcrowding at Central anymore.

Mayor Baines stated that is not the issue. There hasn't been any discussion about expanding Central High School, the capacity at Central High School at this particular point in time. The Board has accepted a report (long-range planning) looking at optimum size of their high schools around 1,500 pupils and at which time if they got to that through a variety of reasons would look at a fourth high school depending on what happens with the surrounding towns and then Central High School would be large enough to accommodate 1,500 which is the present capacity, so that is the discussion that's taken place.

Alderman Gatsas stated the follow-up is that I think the opportunity to get kids out of crowded classrooms and out of hallways and all of those things that we've heard, I believe that the will of this Board is looking to go forward if there was a plan. Now, we're always condemned at this end for not thinking about schools and I believe that the will of this Board is if we can get additional space at Central High School and alleviate some of the crowding that this Board may be willing to move along in that manner. But, just to say that we're going to move people to Ash Street School because that's where they should go, I don't think that that's what we should be looking at; that \$400,000 expense...you're talking about rent certainly can be put to better use, I would think that some of the books that they could buy and those things should be looked at first out of a budget process that we continually hear that we cut their budget but there is \$400,000 laying around to move.

Alderman Levasseur stated if Bedford decides not to renegotiate or come into the contracts, we're going to have what 879 spaces or so and that would alleviate most of the crowding over at Central or at least it would help us with our crunch.

Mayor Baines stated what they would do if 800 students left Central they would look at reapportioning students, for example, Hooksett might end up all at West...that might be one option that they would look at which would pull immediately a significant number of students out of Central, so you have to look at contracts then it would become clearer as to what is going to occur. I know there is a meeting that's being set up within the next week to begin discussions with some of the sending towns.

Alderman Levasseur stated I know the indication that I'm hearing, obviously from Bedford, I'm hearing a lot. My indications are that they will not reup that contract, your Honor. Do we know...for our planning purposes they've always been worrying about

their planning purposes, now that we've opened up the renegotiation of the contracts we've actually given them the option to get out now, am I correct. Now, that we've given them the option to renegotiate they have the option to get out. Will we know by June 30th or so whether they will be renegotiating with us.

Mayor Baines replied I think they're interested in sitting down and listening to some options, that is some of the indications we are receiving. The reality is that they are planning ahead to present to the voters in March a bond issue to build a new high school in Bedford, so they are proceeding with that to keep their options open...they've indicated their willing to continue dialogue with Manchester to explore various options.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there any way we could, as a Board, send them a letter expressing whether they wanted to move their March date up for their election closer. In other words, we're going to wait all the way till March to find out whether Bedford wants to build their own school...our plans do hinge on Bedford, I would think.

Mayor Baines replied I don't think they're going to do that, they have elections in March.

Alderman Levasseur stated our plans hinge on each other, we're suppose to be working these details out...I think whether we're going to build an addition onto to Central really depends on whether we're going to lose 875 students.

Mayor Baines stated I agree with you, I think that would have a very significant effect.

Alderman Levasseur stated before we start committing all kinds of money into all of these certain things we should know what our neighbors are going to do and all indications are that Bedford is going to leave.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that the Town Meeting is set under law, it is not something you can change.

Alderman Levasseur stated so we're waiting for them and they've been waiting for us.

Alderman Wihby stated the first step that leads to asking for a fourth high school and spending \$80 million is to move the administration out of Ash Street and get them a new site so they could be all set for years to come and try to make it look like, well, we're helping Central here because we're going to let them use the Administration Building which isn't good for classes either. So, I think that this is just a device so that they can move out to better quarters because they're tight for the amount of space they have because of new additions...in a year or two from now they'll say we can't live with having Central at the Administration Building on Bridge Street, so let's go ahead and build a fourth high school...I think you're going to have the towns saying I'll chip in for

money to build a fourth high school because I'm going to send my kids there. You can send everybody to Central, all you want, but we want the new school. So, we'll fund it at whatever price you want, but we're going to there and you can have all of your Manchester people at Central. Your Honor, if they don't want an addition, that's fine. We could take the \$400,000 and start renovating Central and start fixing it up for them while they remain at Ash Street School. There is no reason for them to move, there is no reason why we can't do it right away and start doing something with that money that they're going to spend on that and in September or November whenever the Charter question comes up and the voters might decide that they want to make the district into a department and if they do, your Honor, I would hope that this Board would go along with bringing the Human Resources and the Treasury and all of the other things back under the City, back into this building...have the School Board meet here instead of anywhere else and then use the Administration Building for whatever else they want, but they wouldn't need all of the space and the Administration Building would be pretty big. So, I think, your Honor, they're saying this because they want to build their fourth high school and not listen to what we really need and to take care of the problem at Central right away.

Alderman Shea stated I concur.

Alderman Wihby stated I think we should send them that message, your Honor. I think we should send them the message that we don't approve of them moving out of the Ash Street School and spend the money on the kids where it belongs.

Mayor Baines stated so you would next year...just to carry your thought through...next year, you would have a situation where you would put portable classrooms to open just before Labor Day.

Alderman Wihby stated for a year, portable classrooms work at Central either fixing it up or building an addition or whatever else they want...

Mayor Baines stated if the Board wishes to send that message, I would accept a motion.

Alderman Wihby stated it's a waste to spend \$400,000 to move them.

Mayor Baines stated the motion would be, as I understand it, would be to ask them to consider putting portable classrooms at Central rather than making the move.

Alderman Wihby stated rather than building a fourth school.

Alderman Gatsas stated I believe that caveat with the portables must have attached to it that we're going to build additions and not leave portables there for the rest of our lives...that has to be part of the deal or I can't go along with just portables.

Alderman Wihby stated just like we did for McLaughlin.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Board send a message that we do not want the School District to leave the Bridge Street building, we want them to maintain where they're staying, we want them to spend the money on the children and to come up with a plan, for this Board, so we can take care of the problems at Central, fund it...using portables for one year if we have to. But, there is no reason, if they don't come to us within the next month that we can't start like we did with McLaughlin and Alderman O'Neil's suggestion at the time instead of putting portables let's build them the addition in the size that they need it, there is no reason why we can't start that right away and it's probably not going to be done for the school year because there will probably have to be portables for that one year, but it's only for the one year...they would be starting the construction or rehab or whatever they want to do with it and they would make sure of taking care of Central. They would not have to follow the plan of a fourth high school and we would just move forward, your Honor, spending the money where it should be spent.

Alderman Gatsas duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would question, before we make a decision on this, whether we could get Highway and give us an estimation of what the cost a Central addition would be, so that we could have the...if we're going to have to do the plan, we'll do the plan. We don't know how much room they're going to need. Are they going to need 20 rooms or what the addition is going to be because I'm wondering if we could get it done in a year's time before we start putting these kids in portables, I'd like to know how long it is going to take for the addition to be built and how much it's going to cost before I make some sort of a recommendation.

Alderman O'Neil stated Alderman Levasseur beat me to the punch. Unlike when we did an additional to Parkside and McLaughlin we owned all of the property, it was easy to do an addition and I agree with Alderman Levasseur Central is a very tight site. Unless we're talking about purchasing buildings or taking what existing parking there is, I think it's going to be more than Frank and his staff than just giving a square foot estimate depending on what the request is it is going to need a little bit of engineering work to determine what buildings can be added onto, what parking they're going to lose...are we talking about taking...to me it's a little bit more involved than some of our other addition projects that we've done.

Alderman Lopez stated the only problem I have is are we making the right decision because the biggest problem that I see that we as a Board have is that the School Board hasn't made decisions other than the one about the Bedford students and they still have two years to negotiate, but if the School Board could make those decisions then we could surely...Alderman Wihby might be right in his assumption...is this the way to go...but, until they make their actual decision because the Site Committee of the School Board Committee have been through this whole thing and the Committee reported to the School Board on many occasions, but the School Board hasn't acted as to the direction that they want to go. So, it's very difficult to make a decision or send a message over there without their sending a message over here that "we've made a decision", so I think we're working a little backwards to that degree.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I made the suggestion last night and I think that some people might have thought that I was making it in jest, but I was not making it in jest. If the Administration does not have enough room in their current location we should have the Administration go to portables, not the students. I think that should be taken seriously instead of inconveniencing the students, maybe the Administration could live with inconvenience for a year.

Alderman Levasseur stated the reason I made the statement that I did was a two-fold reason. First of all, if there really is a space crunch which most people agree there is a space crunch at Central, there is going to be some sort of a short-term fix that we need to do by September. Now, if we're going to build an addition at Central it's going to be a little tough to build an addition with portables on the property where we're going to want to build the additions. So, what we need to do is we need to make a short-term resolution here...I agree with Alderman Wihby we shouldn't be spending \$500,000 leasing new space. So, the reason I'm going in this direction is I think we can handle all of these issues with one quick swift resolution and that is I think the will of this Board and many of the will of the City is that we build an addition onto Central...that takes care of the crunch, but it's not going to take six months or a year, it's probably going to take two years. We can't put portables on that property because we are going to need the space to build the addition on, so what we need to do is to put the students over at Ash Street School and we should make the Administration go to French Hall for two years or until it's done and then they can go back to Ash Street School when the addition is done, thereby saving all of the money for leasing new space and then we can get this done all in one shot...that is where I am going with this whole thing because I can see what's going to happen...we're just going to waste a lot of this money and the building is empty over there.

Mayor Baines stated just so you know one of the options that they are looking at is French Hall. So, we need to know that and then the Board is going to have to make a decision as to whether they want that.

Alderman Wihby stated here we go again...taking care of the Administration's needs and putting them to French Hall...that is not right. We had a comment today from somebody and I had asked Frank earlier to look to see if French Hall could be used right now for the Central students if we had to because everybody is against portables, have them use French Hall for the one semester instead of going to portables. If you move the Administration out of the Administration Building you're never going to get them back and you're going to end up with some other fourth high school or some other scenario that they want to do and it's a lot cheaper to move the children over there than it is to wire everything for communications and everything else...we can move them, but then like we had the presentation today...Frank says they have room on the first floor at French Hall and the kids can go there back and forth with busing, it's really one semester...if we have problems with portables and leave them where they are, but if we move them out of there...myself and Alderman Levasseur, I think, agree with what's got to be done in the long-range, it's the short-range we have problems with, but if we move them out of there we're never going to get them back. What's the difference if we move the children there for the one semester or if they have to walk across the street to Bridge Street, there's no difference they're still off campus and we could still gain some money that way.

Alderman Levasseur stated I could agree with Alderman Wihby on that solution.

Mayor Baines stated can I make a suggestion. We're not going to solve this...

Alderman Wihby moved to amend his motion to say we're against them moving out of the Administration Building and come up with another solution that is going to solve the problem. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea stated I think the important thing to remember and we're all losing sight of the fact that kids go to school to learn, they don't go to school to learn. They don't go to school to go to swimming pools and all kinds of different things. They go to school to learn and what we place them in is not as significant as who is leading the kids. In other words, you can put a kid into a \$10 million building, but if the teacher isn't competent enough to teach the kids, it's wasted. We're losing sight of the fact...we talk forever and ever and ever about not putting kids in portables, not putting kids here or there, but you go up to St. Paul's...my daughter went up there and the place is antiquated, they don't put millions of dollars into a building program...they teach the kids how to think, how to reason, how to be critical thinkers and so forth and that's what the City is losing sight of. All the people are interested in is my kid going to a new school, is there going to be a gym and maybe we could have a tennis court outside and so forth. Many of us went to schools that were Lowell Street right across from where the Red Arrow is and we ended up doing pretty well. So, the point is reading, writing, and arithmetic...let's put them

someplace, but let's keep the Administration where it is on the corner of Bridge and Maple Streets, I agree.

Mayor Baines stated at the School Board meeting last night it came up of appointing three or four Aldermen, three or four School Board Members to sit down and discuss some of these issues including some of the other issues that have been raised by the Board and might this be a good opportunity if I asked Alderman Cashin as Chairman of this Board to appoint three or four Aldermen and I, as Chairman of the School Board could appoint three or four people to discuss some of those issues.

Alderman Levasseur stated we have a Joint School Buildings Committee for that.

Mayor Baines stated this would transcend this issue, it was just a suggestion because Alderman Cashin had raised this issue one other time.

Alderman Cashin stated I don't object to it, your Honor, I think it's a start in the right direction and hopefully it could accomplish something, it's certainly worth the effort. I'd be happy to.

Alderman Thibault stated in line with what Alderman Wihby was talking about as far as the portables are concerned. Why couldn't a couple of portables, if we're only talking about for one year or a year-and-a-half, why couldn't they be put right across the street in the park that's there very cheaply and in a year or a year-and-a-half get them out of there.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I just have two points with French Hall: first, we just transferred \$33,000 to PBS to cover the electricity of electric heat for one season and they're going to have to consider that and the other thing to consider is the City is paying a debt service on that building and I think that the School District...seeing that they are autonomous from us...is going to have to pick up that debt service if they want that building. So, those are two budgetary concerns. So, French Hall isn't just a gimme.

Alderman Wihby stated I want to go back to what Alderman Lopez said. This discussion would be so much easier if they made the decision what they were going to do with the number of children and who was going to be where because once they decide that issue everything would fall into place, but as long as they play that game and wait till March and everything else nothing is getting accomplished at Central or anywhere else except that Administration is going to move and they're going to have nice quarters and who knows what ends up at Ash Street.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk